

Remarks

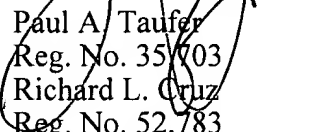
Claims 1-149 are currently pending in the present Applications. The Examiner is again thanked for granting an interview with the Applicants' representative. Independent Claims 1, 95, 129, and 148 have been amended in accordance with the interview. Support for these claim amendments may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 21-29 of the specification. Entry into the Official File and consideration is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Advisory Action's continued characterization of the 'plaintext copyright label' of Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,158), which feature is cited for disclosing bundling one or more permissions together with data for delivery to a user. Nonetheless, the Applicants have further amended the claims to further clarify the novel features recited therein. As amended, the claims recite bundling data together with one or more permissions, wherein the one or more permissions comprise one or more usage rule sets for regulating use of the data. The one or more rules sets may include, for example, rules for prohibiting copying of the data, rules for regulating how long the data may be viewed, etc. (See p. 4, lines 21-29 of the specification). In addition, the claims as amended recite a vault for storing data, wherein the vault is dedicated hard drive space whose existence and contents are invisible to a user.

Saito, on the other hand, bundles copyrighted data together with a copyright label for transmission to a user. As explained in prior communications, the copyright label of Saito is nothing more than a request for permissions, i.e., a request for a use permit key (K1). It is only after the user receives this use permit key (K1) (transmitted separate from the data) that the user will be "...entitled to utilize the copyrighted data." (see col. 7, lines 11-24 of Saito). Further, if the user wishes to edit the copyrighted data, the user is required to send a request for a second use permit key (K2). (see col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 11 of Saito). Furthermore, unlike the claims of the present Application, Saito fails to describe an invisible vault.

Accordingly, for at least those reasons discussed above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present Application are fully patentable over Saito, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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